La Carta

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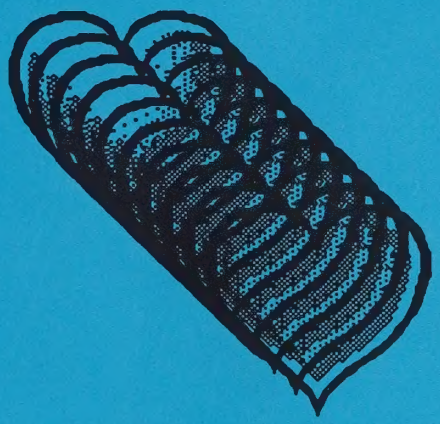

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Mega-Mixer '94

The Mega-Mixer is an event where La Guía is inviting more than 30 separate organizations from thorughout the state to dance, party, and learn about the diverse cultures within the Hispano community as a whole. The event/fundraiser will be held at the "Union Stop," 323 W. Northern Avenue in Pueblo, Saturday, Feburary 19, 1994.

Advertising of the Mega-Mixer will occur via press releases in major Gay papers in Denver, and through newsletters from over 30 organizations and groups. La Guía will be charging $4.00 to non-members and $3.00 to La Guía members. You may purchase tickets from La Guía steering committee members, or call the hotline for more information. To receive the member price, you must show your membership card at the time of purchase. If you haven't received your membership card in the mail and you're listed as a member/participant, call the La Guía hotline today and we'll get it out to you before the weekend of the mixer. Currently, 98 members and associate members are eligible for the $3.00 discount charge. If you have any friends that would like to sign up, now is the time to join us. Remember, there is no fee to join and the mailing list is kept completely confidential.

Major activities at the event will include dancing; door prizes; live entertainment; community appreciation awards; plus MEN and WOMEN to die for!!

We'll get you in free if you help us out by working the door, decorating, bussing tables, or sitting at our information table. A set of 2-3 people will be needed for a minimum of 2-3 hour shifts. We need you so call the hotline at (719) 473-6771.

Caucus and Why

La Guía supports caucuses in Ground Zero and the Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center. We believe that the purpose of the caucus idea is synonymous with the motto, vision, and the mission statement of La Guía; basically, we feel that everyone in the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual community should be included on their own terms, and that barriers such as ethnocentricity, money, or the "closet" can be lessened by a caucus supported by La Guía. The inclusionary idea of a caucus also satisfies the promise of La Guía to open doors to other organizations for its members, while keeping an umbrella of security that keeps the group autonomous.

As everything in La Guía, involvement in caucuses in Ground Zero and the Community Center is entirely voluntary, but receiving information varies from one organization to the other.

Although the GZ caucus is free to LG, the PPGLCC caucus costs LG $10.00 for every individual and $15.00 for every household membership. A "caucus fund" has been set up to pay for LG caucus memberships but at present, our fund is dry; so if you'd like to donate to the fund or would like to pay your own fees, please call the hotline and ask for Danny.

Note: We would like to add that the caucus idea was developed by La Guía with the full support of both Ground Zero and the PPGLCC. We may hav thought of it, but these two groups made it happen...thank them someday.

Happy Birthday, La Guia!

March has been picked as the birth month of La Guía. Although organizing of La Guía started in January 1993, the first actual meeting and the naming of the group happened in March. This is the month when we hope to start a regular schedule of quarterly general membership meetings, steering committee meetings, and the implementation of our new structure and the mode of operation. It is also the month that we plan to have a special edition of *La Carta*. In addition to organizational changes, we hope to have our 501 (c) (3) status finalized. We also plan to have an inclusionary network/caucus system that will accommodate other people of color (Black, Asian, Native American, etc.) so that everyone can benefit from our unique way of operating.

March definitely will be an important month for us, so look for extra mailings, flyers, or a simple call from steering committee representatives for more news.

News Briefs

- Numbered membership cards with La Guía's address, phone number, 800 number, and space for members' names will be distributed around the first of February. These cards will be useful in identifying you as a member and can be used for discounted entry fees to La Guía events. The cards will be sent in an extra mailing that will explain membership activities.

- La Guía Steering Committee Meeting: Saturday, February 12, 2:00 at Gaimé's (1720 W. Kiowa St.). This is the meeting to finalize plans for the Mega-Mixer and propose plans for the People of Color Arts and Crafts Show. Everyone on the mailing list is encouraged to attend. Attendance by Steering Committee Representatives is **Mandatory. REMEMBER, OUR MEETINGS ARE FUN!**

- Volunteers for our fundraising or information committees are desperately needed. No experience is necessary. All that is required is that everyone go through a very informal orientation to acquaint him/herself with our way of doing things. All levels of involvement are available; everything from just support on committees to representatives on committees. So we urge you to get some "ganas" and call the hotline for more information.

- If you haven't yet heard, La Guía's People of Color Arts and Crafts Show will be held at Gentry's Flowers (21 S. Tejon, Colorado Springs) on Saturday and Sunday, April 16 and 17. Fees for those interested in submitting arts and/or crafts depends on what each participant can afford: whether the individual is selling one or twenty pieces. The general rule will be 10% of what you sell, but individuals will be given the option of confidentiality in giving La Guía what they can. Flyers and more detailed information will be mailed out in February.

- Ground Zero plans to convene a meeting of all Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual groups on January 29. We've specifically been invited to be represented, and since we are one of **the** major groups in the state, we're planning on sending a few people to represent us. If you want to attend, contact Rozx through the hotline. It should prove to be a pleasant, un-intimidating session to discuss inter-or-

ganizational networking and future coalition building.

- Our People of Color Panel has bee organized and we will start sending these people to workshops, seminars, and group meetings as other organizations request them.

- The steering committee has decided to compile the information we have collected concerning English Only laws, anti-Gay legislation, Hispanic Gay issues, inclusive labels (such as Hispanic, Chicano, People of Color, etc.), and informational formats covering subjects such as promoting diversity through inclusion, multi-culturalism within the Hispanio community, forming coalitions with people of color, and various other subjects into a set of brochures that will be available (free of charge) through La Guía. Most of these will be available at the Mega-Mixer, but all of them will not be ready until April. If you like to write, please consider being the coordinator of this project.

- There has been a lot of concern about who represents La Guía to the rest of the LesBiGay community. We are currently mailing letters of information/introduction to over 30 organizations; mailings will follow later with additional information on who actually "speaks" for La Guía on official issues. Currently, only members with seats on the steering committee can be viewed as official spokespersons. These members are: Mitch, Gaimé, Maurcedes, Rozx, and Dennis. Hopefully, this will subside any fears and questions of who is representing you. All these individuals have pledged to be "representatives" of the La Guía membership despite their own personal beliefs and agendas. This system of contacts will keep individuals from "going off" and doing what they think is good for you without first consulting you on what you really think.

- Calls to the hotline for December were at 27 praising the newsletter and 9 asking about specific articles. January's calls fell to only 11 calls covering subjects ranging from membership inquiries, *La Carta*, and requests for a visit from our People of Color Panel. Remember! The phone calls are free, so call us whenever you want to talk about anything.

PrideFest '94

The PrideFest committee of the Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center has announced the date and time of the 1994 Pride Parade as Sunday July 10, 1:00 p.m. in Colorado Springs. Now that we've got the date set, we can start making plans to participate.

Some of you have expressed interest in constructing a float to be used in both the Springs and Denver parades. Others have expressed interest in redoing our banner. These ideas and any new concerns will be discussed at our Steering Committee meeting. In addition, the PrideFest committee has also announced a logo contest for this year's parade; details, however, will not be available until after the printing of this month's *La Carta*. But, that doesn't mean you can't start putting your ideas together now!! What we know about the contest is that the theme of the parade will most likely be "Stonewall" and the deadline for submission of logos is March 31, 1994.

La Guía believes that we have the members with the talent to win the contest, so let's go get to it amigos...con amigas. If you want to

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February is celebrated as Black History Month (USA).

It would be somewhat ludicrous to ask that you limit a cultural celebration to a quick four weeks - but during this month their will be an abundance of opportunities for you and your loved ones to take part in some of the year's most entertaining and informative happenings.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 Constitution Day, Mexico
6 Waitangi Day, New Zealand	7	8	9	10 Lunar New Year, China, Hong Kong	11 National Founding Day, Japan	12 Lincoln's Birthday, USA
13	14 St. Valentine's Day	15 Shrove Tuesday • Fastnachtdienstag • Mardi Gras	16 Ash Wednesday • Aschermittwoch • Cendres	17	18	19
20	21 President's Day, USA 'Shaheed Day, Bangladesh	22 Washington's Birthday, USA	23	24 Banner's Day, Mexico Independence Day, Estonia	25 Purim	26
27	28					

In an ongoing project to heighten cultural awareness La Guía will be posting various "days of importance" for the month. We're <u>not</u> diversity *know-it-alls* by any means, it's simply an effort and gesture on our part to promote, celebrate, and honor eachother's histories. Our apologies if we've overlooked a significant day for you - if so, feel free to give us a call so we can add it to our calendar.

1994

La Guia invites EVERYONE
to the
MEGA-MIXER 94!

SATURDAY, FEB. 19th. 8.00pm
at the
UNION STOP
323 W. NORTHERN AVENUE
PUEBLO, COLORADO

La Guia members - $3.00
NON-MEMBERS - $4.00

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
COME HAVE MEGA-FUN!

(map to MEGA-MIXER on back)

group, nor do we get deadlocked in our decision making process.

The steering committee approved requests from more than a few individuals from Denver for their own division within La Guía. Information will be dispersed to the Denver folks about our non-confrontational, non-judgmental, inclusionary mode of operations. Due to the foreseen problems expanding in Denver, the individuals asking for admission into La Guía have been informed that creation of the division will be slow and gradual.

After the meeting, the steering committee attended a One In Ten organizational get-together. One In Ten is a University of Southern Colorado group.

History of La Guia

Many people don't realize that La Guía was formed at about the same time as other groups in the state after the passage of Amendment 2. By Sunday January 10, 1993, La Guía was an informal, un-named Hispanic group consisting of seven Gays and Lesbians living in Colorado Springs. By January 1994, La Guía became one of the largest, if not the most wide-spread, Hispano/Latino organizations in the state of Colorado.

Traditionally, the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual community had been in the forefront of being a model of diversity; but despite well intentioned and sincere efforts by non-Hispano Gays and Lesbians, it was obvious to many that representation of ethnic minorities in southern Colorado's Gay community was disproportionately low. In fact, people of color were virtually non-existent in most groups. A solution was sought that would include people of color on their own terms, yet allow them to keep their separate identities. Thus, La Guía was born.

During the aftermath of Amendment 2, a small group of Hispano/Latino Gays, Lesbians, and Bisexuals realized, through interviews and networking within the Hispano Gay and Lesbian community, that an organization that would be "autonomous from, yet associated with" the Gay and Lesbian community at-large should be the goal of the group. So, La Guía formed to integrate, not segregate, Hispanos and Latinos into <u>our</u> community by incorporating a concept of "dual loyalty." This "dual loyalty" concept was deemed easier for Hispanos to understand since they have historically had to balance loyalties in language, country, culture, and family.

Many non-Hispano Americans have traditionally never understood the duality in Hispano/Latino loyalties, nor do they see any problem in asking Hispano Americans to choose: English over Spanish, Anglo values or culture over Hispano/Latino values or culture; but it is this same duality that has kept Hispanos an identifiable group in this country that is as diverse ethnically and culurally as the dominant culture. "Why choose between your father and your mother?" You don't! You love and accept each one equally yet differently, depending on who you are and who they are.

So went the preparations for organizing the group; then, on March 6, 1993, the group had its first formation meeting. On March 20, La Guía was named and the first function was held. Since that Spring, La Guía has evolved into the organization it is now. Working almost completely on solicited donations from the Hispano/Latino community, La Guía supports Hispano caucuses in Ground Zero and the Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center. La Guía is also a

member of the Colorado Springs Minority Coalition. Described as a cultural awareness and advocacy group that is dedicated to the unification and the education of the Gay and Lesbian Community at-large by providing a diverse forum that is both autonomous and interactive, La Guía has been able to live up to its motto of **Diversity through Inclusion** by using a caucus system of interaction while incorporating as a separate entity. La Guía has been actively involved in educational programs that confront Latin Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual issues in the form of speaker's panels and printed literature.

Presently, La Guía is one organization with members from the communities of Colorado Springs, Pueblo, the San Luis Valley, and surrounding mountain/ plains communities. Each area constitutes a "division" of La Guía that is represented on the steering committee.

Our Motto:
"Diversity Through Inclusion"

Our Mission:
La Guía is a cultural awareness and advocacy group that encourages the inclusion of Hispano/Latino Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and their friends by providing a diverse forum that is both autonomous and interactive within the greater Gay and Lesbian community.

Our Vision:
We envision a Gay and Lesbian community that is educated and respectful of the racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity within the Hispano/Latino community, and who are aware of the benefits of maintaining a multi-cultural society.

Our Description:
We represent Hispano/Latino Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and their friends from a variety of backgrounds throughout Southern Colorado who are dedicated to the unification and the education of the Gay and Lesbian community at-large, and who believe in the mission statement of La Guía.

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La Carta is a monthly newsletter of La Guia. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month.

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